

## **CONFORMITY ANALYSIS**

### **Introduction**

#### *Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*

RTIP is the federally required short-range document that implements the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The biennial RTIP update is produced on an even year cycle. This RTIP cycle is consistent with the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycle. The 2008 STIP in the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) region was incorporated into the 2008 RTIP for conformity analysis. The Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approved the 2008 RTIP on November 17, 2008.

#### *RTIP Amendment 08-02 Project Description*

RTIP Amendment 08-02 includes a total of nine projects for which conformity needs to be reaffirmed (see project listing). Projects included in the amendment are located within the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) and the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB).

#### *Federal Conformity Requirements*

Federal and state regulations allow that SCAG, as the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), may rely on a previous regional emissions analysis when processing amendments, in the event that certain conditions are met. Amendment 08-02 relies on the regional emissions analysis for the 2008 RTIP which also updated the 2008 RTP emission analysis. Section 93.122(g) is the relevant part of the Transportation Conformity rule for this amendment.

#### *Conformity Status of Current RTIP and RTP*

On June 5, 2008, the federal conformity determination for the 2008 RTP was approved for all the non-attainment and maintenance areas in the SCAG region:

- South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) (Ventura County Portion) – Ozone
- South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) – Ozone, NO<sub>2</sub>, CO, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and PM<sub>10</sub>
- Western Mojave Desert Air Basin (MDAB) (Antelope Valley Portion of Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County Portion Excluding Searles valley) – Ozone
- MDAB (San Bernardino County including Searles Valley) \_ PM<sub>10</sub>
- Salton Sea Air Basin (SSAB) (Coachella Valley portion) – Ozone and PM<sub>10</sub>
- SSAB (Imperial County portion) – Ozone and PM<sub>10</sub>

On November 17, 2008, the federal agencies approved funding and determined conformity of the 2008 RTIP. The 2008 RTIP is based on the 2008 RTP and implements the projects and programs included in the fiscal years (2008/09 – 2013/2014) of the 2008 RTP.



## **Summary of Conformity Analysis and Findings**

SCAG reaffirms the applicable conformity findings for the 2008 RTIP, which can be found at:

[http://www.scag.ca.gov/rtip/pdf/adopted/08/Adopted08RTIP\\_TA\\_Sec01.pdf](http://www.scag.ca.gov/rtip/pdf/adopted/08/Adopted08RTIP_TA_Sec01.pdf)

This reaffirmation covers the findings for all applicable pollutants, including regional emissions analyses, financial constraint test, timely implementation of Transportation Control Measures (TCMs), applying the use of the latest planning assumptions and the latest approved emissions model (EMFAC2007), reaffirming consistency between the adopted 2008 RTIP and the adopted 2008 RTP, and reaffirming the process for interagency consultation and public participation.

SCAG has completed its analysis of the proposed changes to the 2008 RTIP. SCAG's findings for the approval of this amendment are as follows:

### **Overall**

**Statement of Fact:** Inclusion of this amendment in the 2008 RTIP would not change any other policies, programs and projects which were previously approved by the federal agencies on November 17, 2008.

**Finding:** SCAG has determined that the 2008 RTIP Amendment 08-02 is consistent with all federal and state requirements and complies with the federal conformity regulations.

### **Consistency with Current RTP and RTIP**

The projects in Amendment 08-02 are from the adopted 2008 RTP, which is a conforming Plan. Amendment 08-02 does not include any new regionally significant projects beyond those currently included in the 2008 RTP, nor does it move a project from any modeling horizon year currently assumed in the 2008 RTP and 2008 RTIP. Furthermore, the design, concept and scope of the project do not differ significantly from what was described in the 2008 RTP. Allocating funds to these projects will not delay the implementation of projects in the 2008 RTP or 2008 RTIP.

**Finding:** The 2008 RTIP Amendment 08-02 is consistent with the adopted 2008 RTP and 2008 RTIP.

### **Regional Emissions Analysis**

The regional emissions analysis for the amendment was performed with the SCAG Regional Transportation Model used for the 2008 RTP and 2008 RTIP and utilizes the planning, socioeconomic and model assumptions from the 2008 RTP and 2008 RTIP.

SCAG is using the emissions analysis for the 2008 RTIP because the RTIP emissions analysis updates the regional emissions analyses for the 2008 RTP. The regional emissions analysis methodology for this amendment to the 2008 RTIP uses two sets of calculations. For pollutants with emissions budgets, the currently applicable budget is used to determine conformity. For all other pollutants, the interim emission tests are used. In addition, this conformity determination



is being made for the South Coast Air Basin (SCAG) and the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) since all the nine RTIP Amendment 08-02 projects are located within these two air basins.

### ***1. South Coast Air Basin (SCAB)***

**Finding:** The 2008 RTIP Amendment 08-02 regional emissions for Ozone precursors (NO<sub>x</sub>, ROG/VOC) are consistent with all applicable emissions budgets for all milestone, attainment, and planning horizon years (2007 Ozone SIP)

**Finding:** The 2008 RTIP Amendment 08-02 regional emissions for CO are consistent with all applicable emissions budgets for all milestone, attainment, and planning horizon years (2007 CO SIP).

**Finding:** The 2008 RTIP Amendment 08-02 regional emissions for NO<sub>2</sub> are consistent with all applicable emissions budgets for all milestone, attainment, and planning horizon years (2007 NO<sub>2</sub> SIP).

**Finding:** The 2008 RTIP Amendment 08-02 regional emissions for PM<sub>10</sub> precursors are consistent with all applicable emissions budgets for all milestone, attainment, and planning horizon years (2003 PM<sub>10</sub> SIP).

**Finding:** The 2008 RTIP Amendment 08-02 regional emissions for direct PM<sub>2.5</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> are consistent with all applicable emissions budgets for all milestone, attainment, and planning horizon years (2007 PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP).

### ***2. South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB)***

**Finding:** The 2008 RTIP Amendment 08-02 regional emissions for Ozone precursors (NO<sub>x</sub>, ROG/VOC) are consistent with all applicable emissions budgets for all milestone, attainment, and planning horizon years (2008 8-Hour Ozone Early Progress Plan)

#### **Timely Implementation of TCMs**

Only two non attainment areas in the SCAG region currently have TCMs, the Ventura County portion of the South Central Coast Air Basin and the SCAB. In the SCAB, the list of TCMs and the Timely Implementation Report used to track implementation of TCMs is comprehensively updated with each RTIP cycle. The most recent list of TCMs can be found in the 2008 RTIP.

**Finding:** The 2008 RTIP Amendment 08-02 does not change timely implementation of SCAB and SCCAB TCM projects. Any past obstacles to timely implementation of TCMs identified in Amendment 08-02 have been overcome. All SCAB and SCCAB TCM projects in the federally approved conforming 2008 RTIP are given funding priority and are on schedule for implementation.

#### **Fiscal Constraint Analysis**

**Finding:** RTIP Amendment 08-02 includes the most recent financial plan for the 2008 RTIP. All projects listed in the 2008 RTIP (including the proposed amendment) are financially constrained for all fiscal years.



Interagency Consultation and Public Involvement Analysis

**Finding:** The prior regional conformity analysis leading to FHWA and FTA's approval on November 17, 2008 complied with all federal and state requirements for interagency consultation and public involvement as documented in Section V of Technical Appendix, Volume II of the 2008 RTIP. For RTIP Amendment 08-02 SCAG will undergo additional public involvement including solicitation via email for comments from the Transportation Conformity Working Group. In addition, Amendment 08-02 will be posted on SCAG's website ([www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov)) for a 15-day public comment period.

